

Utah Interagency Fire Information

Cooperating Agencies:

www.utahfireinfo.gov



Bureau of Indian Affairs

NEWS RELEASE

June 27, 2005

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Bureau of Land Management

OFFICIALS URGE CAUTION WITH FIREWORKS

A cool, wet spring has delayed Utah's wildland fire season, but as temperatures rise that could quickly change. As the July 4th and 24th holidays approach officials are urging caution in the use of fireworks.

"The July holidays are some of our most worrisome times," says State Forester Joel Frandsen. "All fires need three things, oxygen, fuel and an ignition source, and fireworks are commonly that source of ignition."

While the wet weather has kept the fire danger relatively low, it has created a bumper crop of grasses in many areas of the state. "So, now we have another leg of the fire triangle that is out of the norm" notes Frandsen, "Grasses are unusually tall and thick and coupled with fireworks, or other sources of ignition, we could see very large fires."

Washington County is the only part of the state that currently has fire restrictions in place. Those restrictions prohibit open fires of any kind, except campfires in approved fire pits and grills in improved campgrounds of permanent places of habitation. Devices fueled by petroleum or LPG products are still allowed in all locations. Smoking is also prohibited, except in an enclosed vehicle or developed recreation site, or in an area three feet in diameter cleared of vegetation to mineral soil. Other prohibitions include any kind of fireworks, tracer ammunition, or other incendiary device.

"We hope people haven't been lulled into complacency and forget that fireworks and vegetation are not a good mix," adds Frandsen. "We want everyone to enjoy their holiday outings, but to do so safely. This is the year to be extra careful and cautious."

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